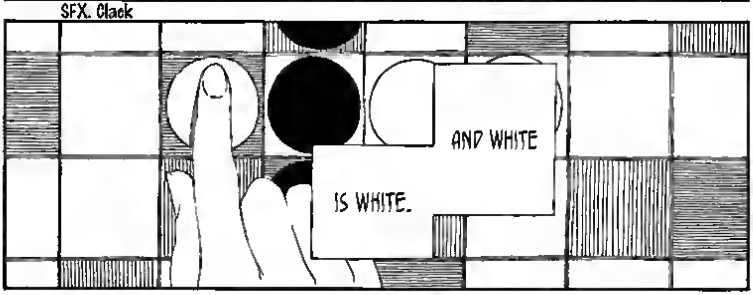
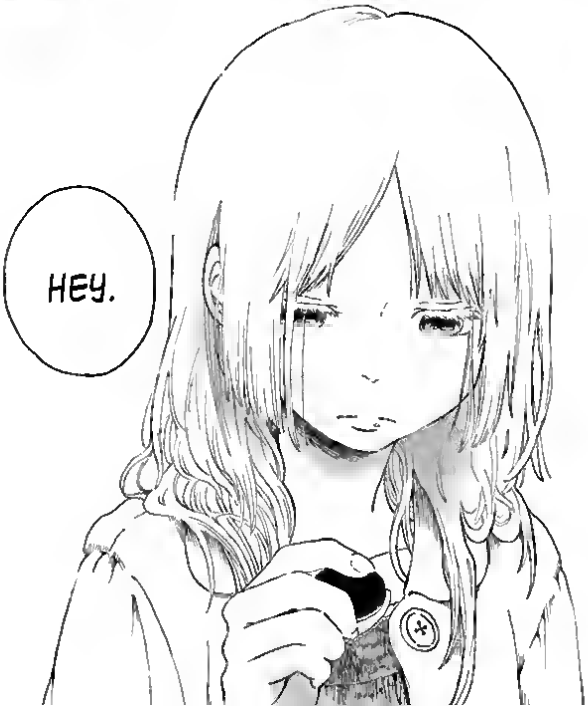
I DETEST AMBIGUITY.
夏の首
0 IS 0,
100 IS 100.

SFX. Clack





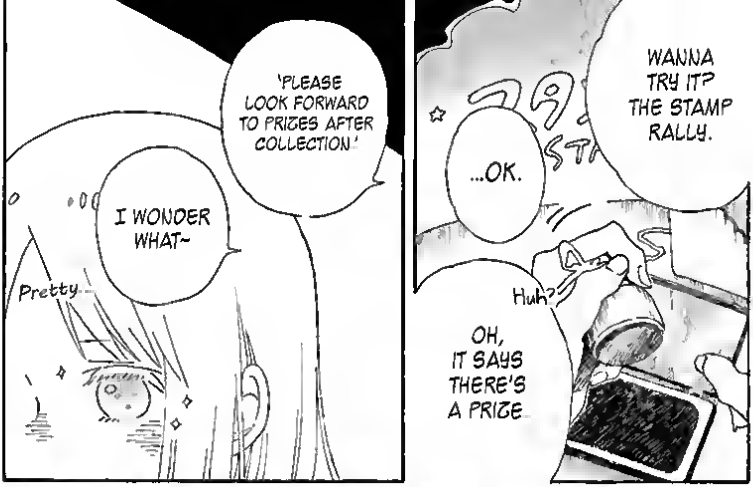
DO YOU
HAVE A PARTNER?
IF ANYONE'S FINE,

A story of bravery.
This is a story dedicated to you.
is precious enough.
Your existence alone
On this day,
you appeared,
and time started to move.
PLAY WITH ME?
特別読切
立夏の首
Rikka no kubi
Amano Sayaka

TO THINK THAT WE TIED!
I WAS CONFIDENT AT OTHELLO!
IS IT 'CUZ I CHOSE BLACK?
HUH...
Step
Step
RIGHT, I'M CALLED SHIRO.
YOU?
DON'T FOLLOW ME.
WAIT UP!

NO NORMAL PERSON WOULD APPROACH SOMEONE PLAYING OTHELLO ALONE IN AN AQUARIUM.
IF YOU WANT TO FLIRT,
FIND SOMEONE ELSE.
YOU'RE UNUSUALLY WARY.
I'LL CARRY YOUR BAGGAGE.
!
LIFT
WAIT!
JUST FOR TODAY,
WON'T YOU BE MY COMPANION?
PRETTY PLEASE.
.....

KANNA.
SO, WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
'KANNA.'
NICE NAME.

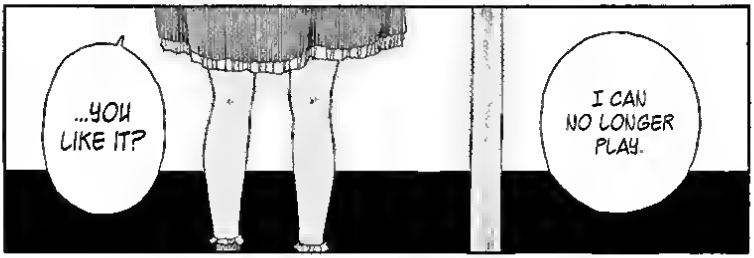

'PLEASE LOOK FORWARD TO PRIZES AFTER COLLECTION'
I WONDER WHAT~
Pretty
WANNA TRY IT? THE STAMP RALLY.
...OK.
Huh?
OH, IT SAYS THERE'S A PRIZE

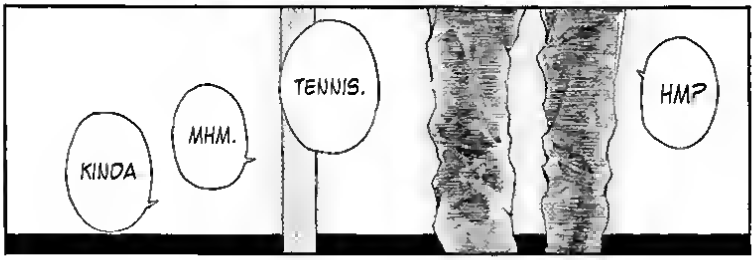
MAN, FISH SURE ARE LUCKY. THEY CAN'T DROWN.
HM?

I ONLY HAVE THREE MONTHS LEFT TO LIVE.
ME NEITHER.
I CAN'T SWIM.

Hoshikage primary, please gather here!
Okay~
Wahaha
Kya!
STAARE
RIGHT. YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME.
I DIDN'T.
WHY'D YOU LIE LIKE THAT?

PROOFF
HUH?
AH, THIS? IT'S UNRELATED.
I GOT HURT
WHEN PLAYING TENNIS.

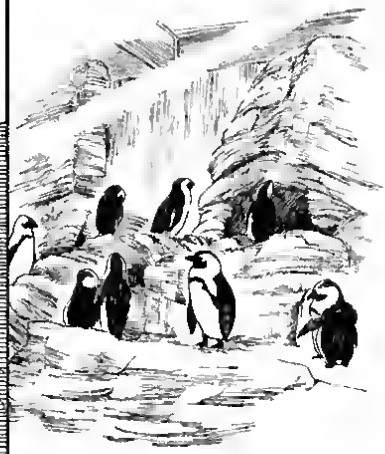

...YOU LIKE IT?
I CAN NO LONGER PLAY.


TENNIS.
HM?
KINDA
MHM.

IT'S BETTER LIKE THIS, I GUESS

I WANT TO HURRY AND DIE.
I'M JEALOUS.
KANNA, GOT ANYTHING YOU LIKE?
NO.
THEN YOU SHOULD FIND IT.
WHA AA-?
'CAUSE THAT'D BE YOUR...
"GOAL" TO LIVE.
Chatter
Chatter
PENGUINS SURE ARE POPULAR~

LOOK, IT FELL.
.....
So cuten
HAHA



FOR OTHERS AND YOURSELF

THEY'RE BOTH WAYS TO EXPRESS EMOTIONS...

DO YOU EVER THINK LAUGHING AND CRYING ARE THE SAME?
...NO.

AH, A PENGUIN FAMILY!
...CUTE.
YEP.
WE'RE CLOSE TO COMPLE-TING IT
STAMP

THE AQUARIUM'S BEST, AFTER ALL!
IT SURE IS LARGE!!
...HN.
KANNA, DO YOU KNOW WHAT 'RIKKA' IS?
...THE DATE?
THAT'S NOT IT.
IT'S AN ANCIENT CREATURE.

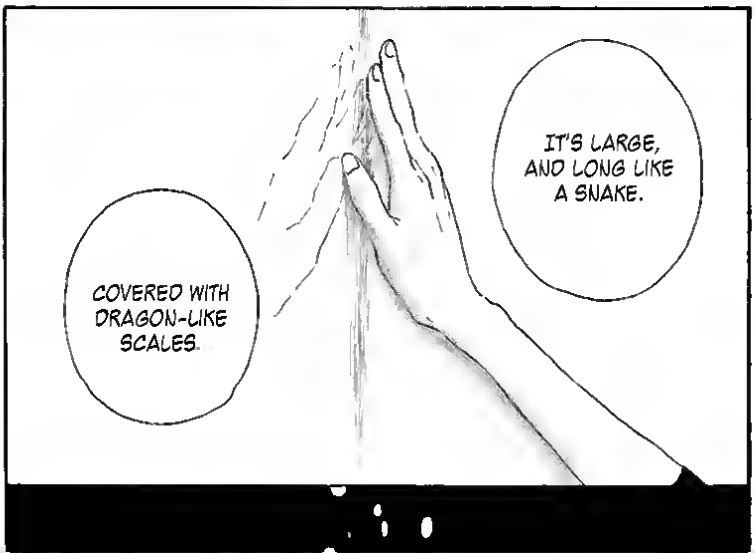
YEAH, LIKE A MYTH.
IT'S ALMOST FICTION.
THERE'S BARELY ANY DOCUMENT ABOUT IT.
THEY SAY THAT RIKKA ATTACKS AND EATS HUMAN CHILDREN,
BUT THAT'S ONLY BECAUSE HUMANS KILLED ITS HATCHLING, BY ACCIDENT.
AS THE DEEPLY AFFECTIONATE CREATURE RIKKA IS,
ITS SAD CRIES COULD BE HEARD FOR 3 DAYS AND NIGHTS STRAIGHT
THE END OF ITS CRIES MARKED ITS HUNT FOR THE NEXT HUMAN CHILD.

HUMANS, THEN, SOMEHOW MANAGED TO CAPTURE RIKKA
AND CHOPPED ITS HEAD OFF.
DESPITE WITH ONLY THE HEAD LEFT, RIKKA REMAINED FEROCIOUS.
IT WAS CERTAINLY A GRUESOME SIGHT.
IN THE END, A SWORD STABBED ITS CROWN AND...

IT DIED.
WELL, IT'S A FOLKLORE.
TERRIBLE ENDING!
THAT'S TO BE EXPECTED.
THE END.
.. AND?
I ENVY THE RIKKA.
HUH?

...IT WAS ONLY TRYING TO LIVE.
DESPITE WITH ONLY ITS HEAD LEFT,
HAHA...
HOW AMAZING IT STILL STOOD WITH SUCH CONVICTION.
WELL, IT MAY HAVE BEEN REALLY SCARED INSIDE.

I WANT TO MEET RIKKA, BUT I PROBABLY CAN'T, SO...
I IMAGINE.


IT'S LARGE, AND LONG LIKE A SNAKE.
COVERED WITH DRAGON-LIKE SCALES.

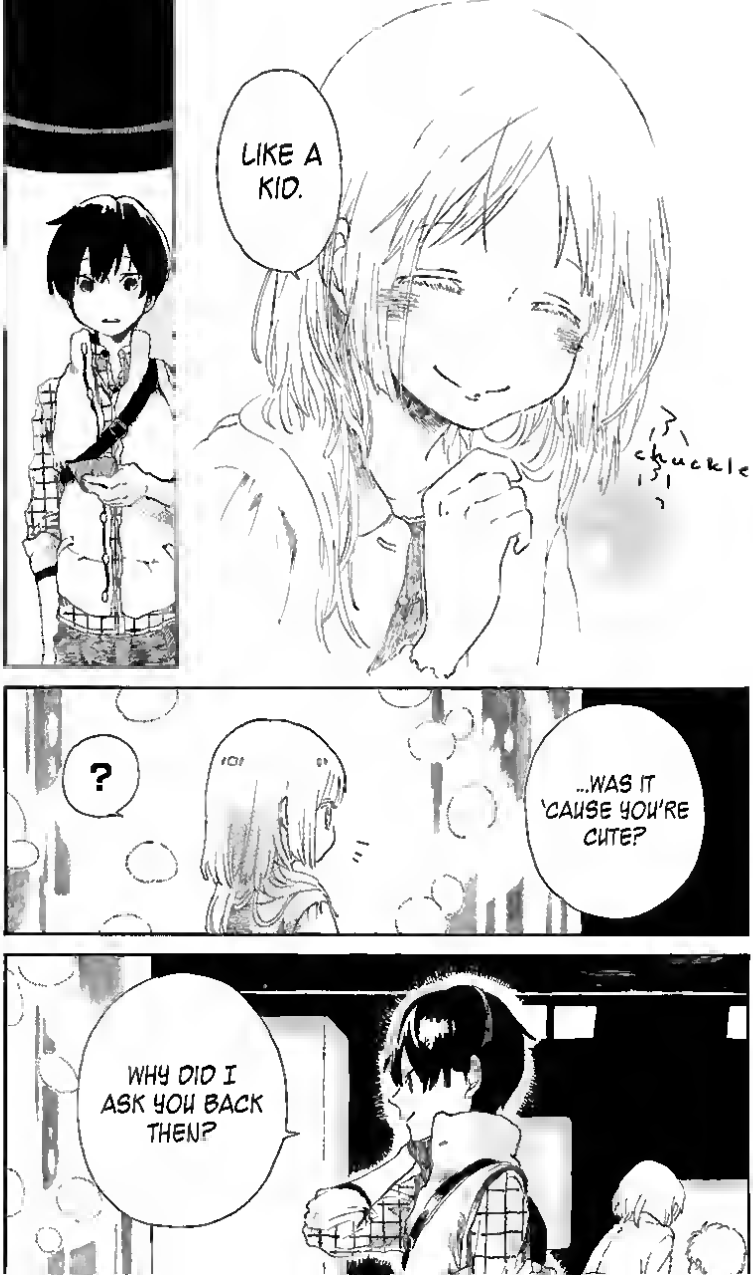
OF COURSE, IT LIVES UNDERWATER.
THAT'S WHY I CAME TO THE AQUARIUM. IT'D BE EASIER TO PICTURE, I THOUGHT.
RIKKA'S NOT GREEDY.
WITHOUT MINDING OTHERS,
IT JUST FOLLOWS
ITS HEART.

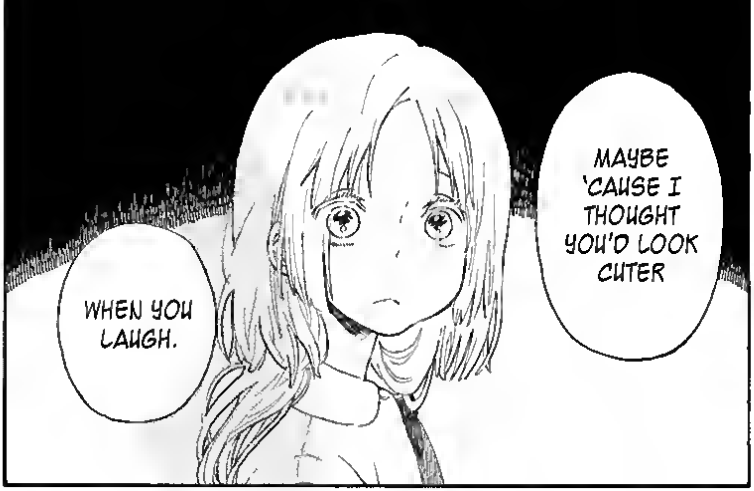
A BRAVE LIVING BEING.

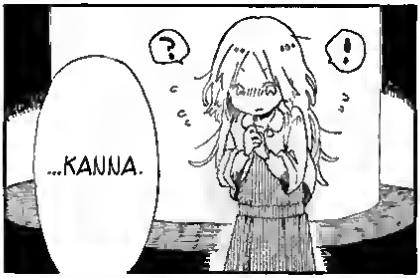
THAT'S...
CALLED BRAVE?
THAT'S JUST INADEQUATE INTELLIGENCE.
I THINK THERE'S A BRAVE SENSE TO IT.

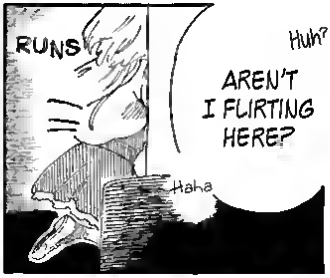
SURELY THE HATCHLING WAS EVERYTHING TO RIKKA.
ONCE IT WAS TAKEN AWAY, WHAT REMAINED WERE FEELINGS OF SADNESS AND HATRED.
IT HAD TO BATTLE WITH THOSE FEELINGS TIL DEATH.
RATHER THAN VAIN EFFORT, IT'S AMAZING.
...ME, TOO.

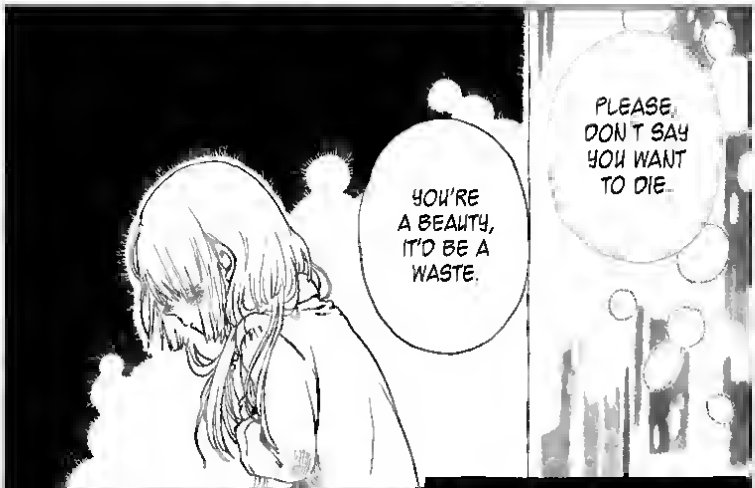
IT'D BE AMAZING IF I COULD LIVE LIKE THAT...
I THINK.
ARGH! WE'RE ALMOST OUT!
I WANT IT!
DOES IT MATTER.
I CAN'T FIND THE LAST STAMP!


LIKE A KID.
chuckle
?
...WAS IT 'CAUSE YOU'RE CUTE?
WHY DID I ASK YOU BACK THEN?

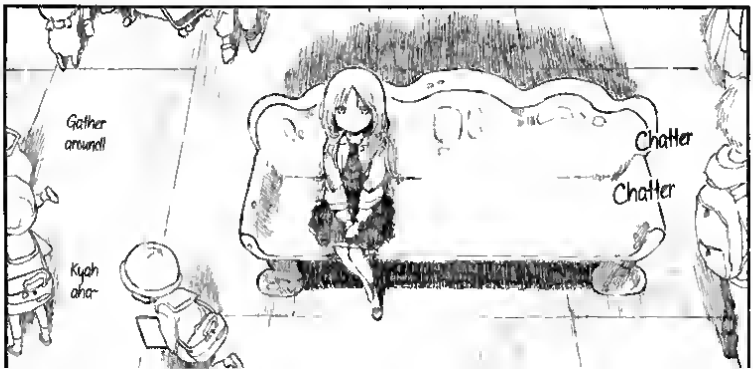

MAYBE 'CAUSE I THOUGHT YOU'D LOOK CUTER
WHEN YOU LAUGH.

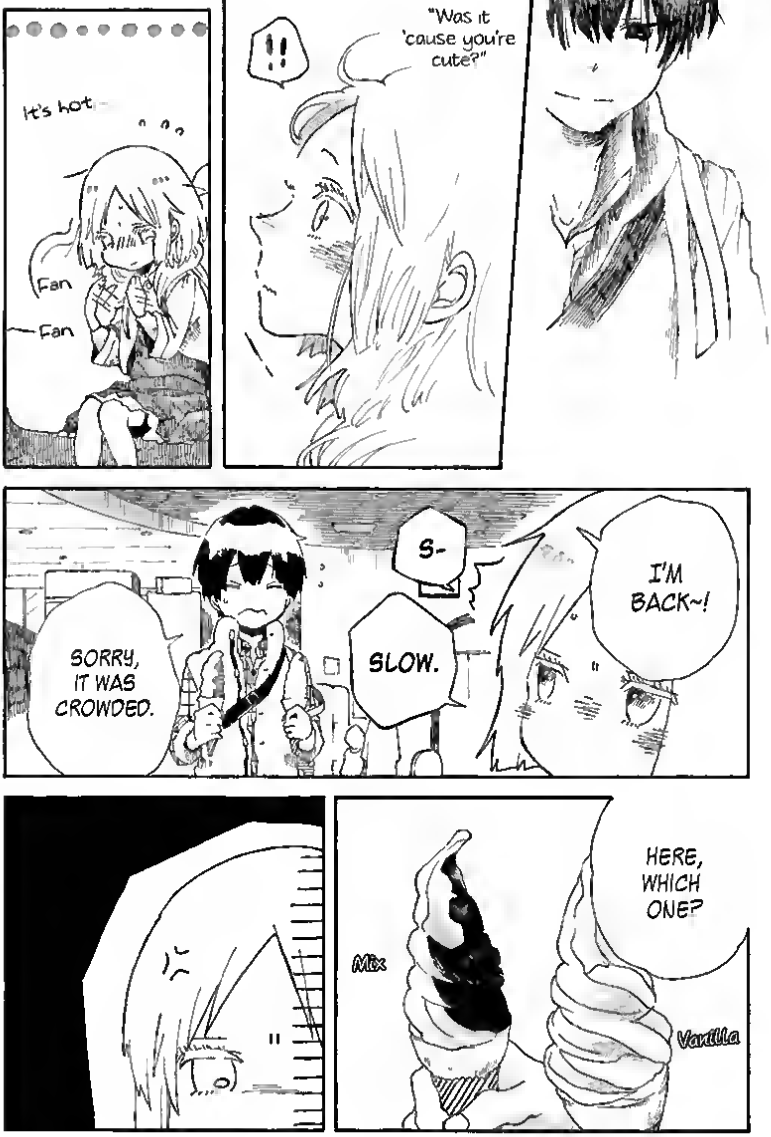

?
!
...KANNA.


RUNS
Huh?
AREN'T I FLIRTING HERE?
Haha


PLEASE, DON'T SAY YOU WANT TO DIE.
YOU'RE A BEAUTY, IT'D BE A WASTE.

...CAN YOU HEAR ME?


Gather around!
Kyah aha-
Chatter
Chatter

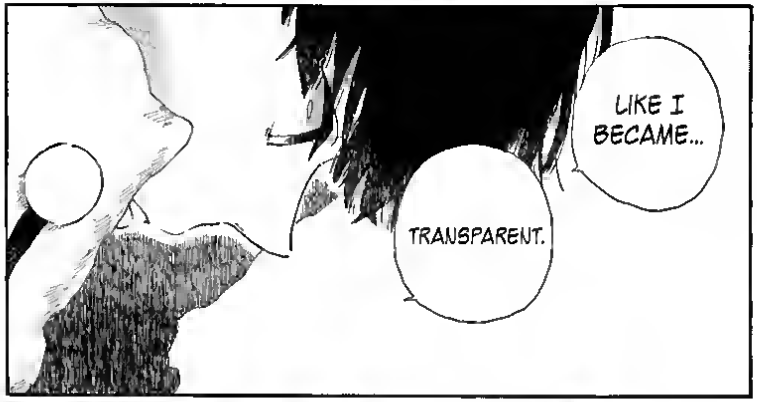

It's hot...
Fan
Fan
!!
"Was it 'cause you're cute?"
I'M BACK~!
S-
SLOW.
SORRY, IT WAS CROWDED.
HERE, WHICH ONE?
Mix
Vanilla

THIS, FOR SURE.
Vanilla!
HUH, I THOUGHT GIRLS WOULD LIKE THE MIXED ONE!
ISN'T THE TASTE MIXED?
THAT'S WHY IT'S GOOD!
.....
Guh!
I COULDN'T GET THE PRIZE
YOU ASKED?
IT WAS OBVIOUS, SINCE YOU DIDN'T COLLECT THEM ALL
I ONLY MISSED ONE!
AH!

ACQUAINTANCE?
GIRLFRIEND? HIS GIRLFRIEND?
YEAH, JUST NOW.
BYE BYE, NII-CHAN!
YEP! SEE YA!
ME, A MASTER PAINTER?
YOU MUST SUCK.
Kyaaa~
Settle Hey! down!
PRIMARY KIDS CAN REALLY DRAW WELL.
Were they having a sketching contest?
IT WAS A LIE.
?
It's dripping
HN.
...HEY.

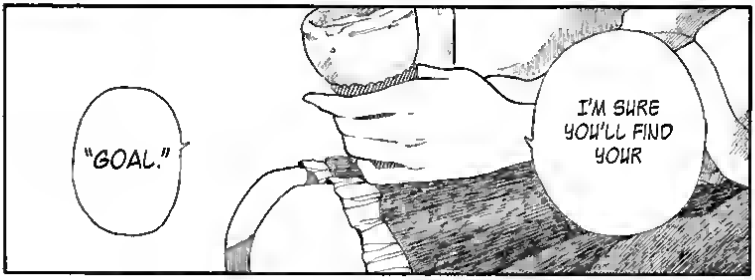
MHM.
CHOMP
THE THREE MONTHS THINGY.
TRUE.
AS IF ANYONE'S LIKE THAT.
..YOU KNEW?
IN ME.
SOMETHING CHANGED
..THREE MONTH AFTER THE TOURNA-MENT,

I COULDN'T FEEL MY EXISTENCE.


LIKE I BECAME...
TRANSPARENT.

SHIRO'S NOT TRANSPARENT.

YOU
LIVED THOSE THREE MONTHS.


I'M SURE YOU'LL FIND YOUR
"GOAL."

...AND WHAT IF I DON'T?

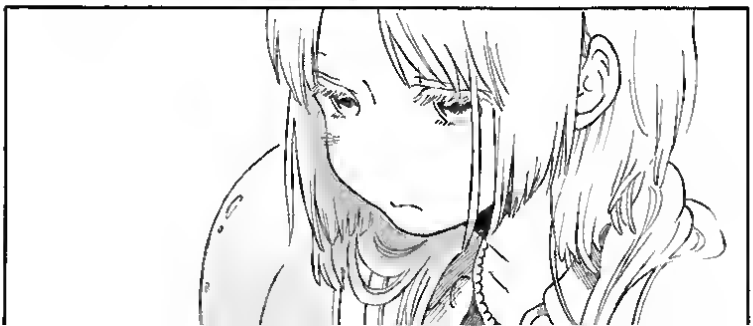
IF SO,
AT THAT TIME,
JUST STRIKE YOUR OWN CROWN.

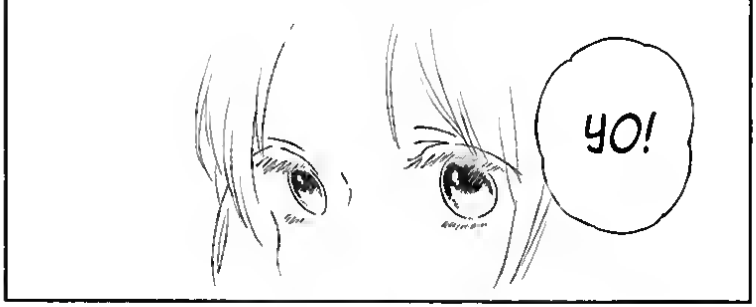
Hmph
HAHA!
I SEE!
YEAH, THAT'D BE RIGHT!

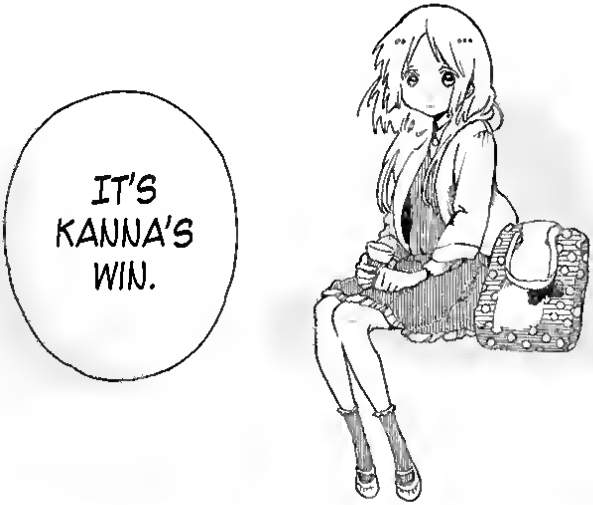
KANNA.
.....
I got laughed at...
THANKS FOR ACCOMPANYING ME.
I'M RETURNING THIS!
...IT'S NOTHING.
MAN, I'D LOVE IT IF KANNA STROKE MY CROWN, THOUGH~

I WON'T!
Ahaha!
KNEW YOU'D SAY THAT!

SEE YA.

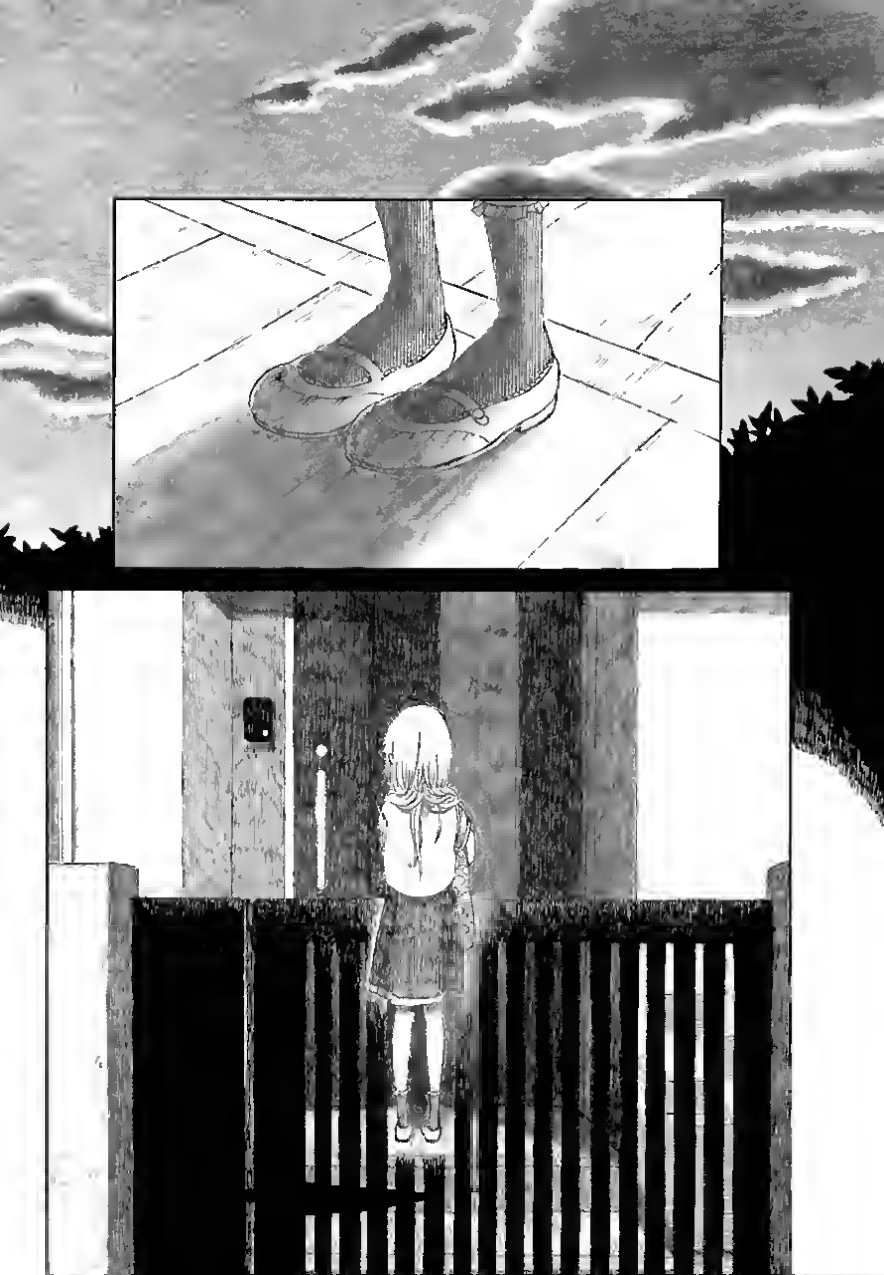


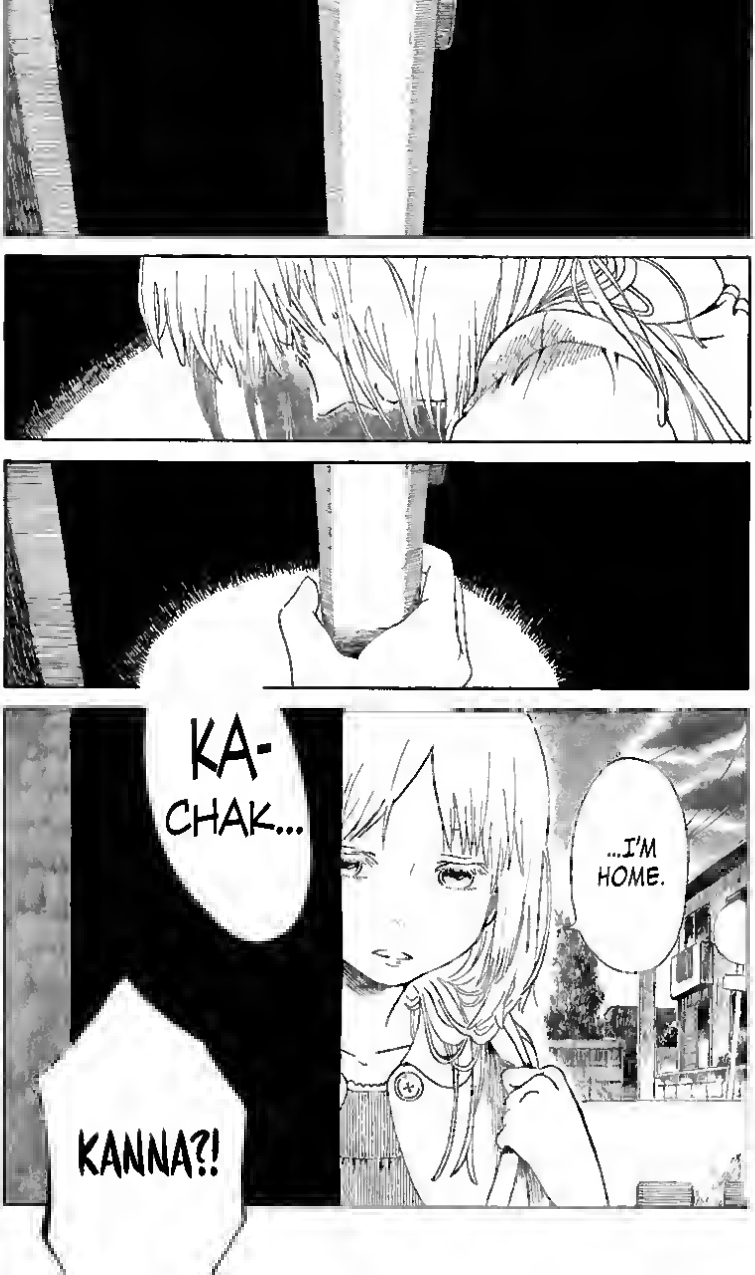

YO!


IT'S KANNA'S WIN.

OTHELLO!

Bye bye!
WHAT'S WITH THAT.

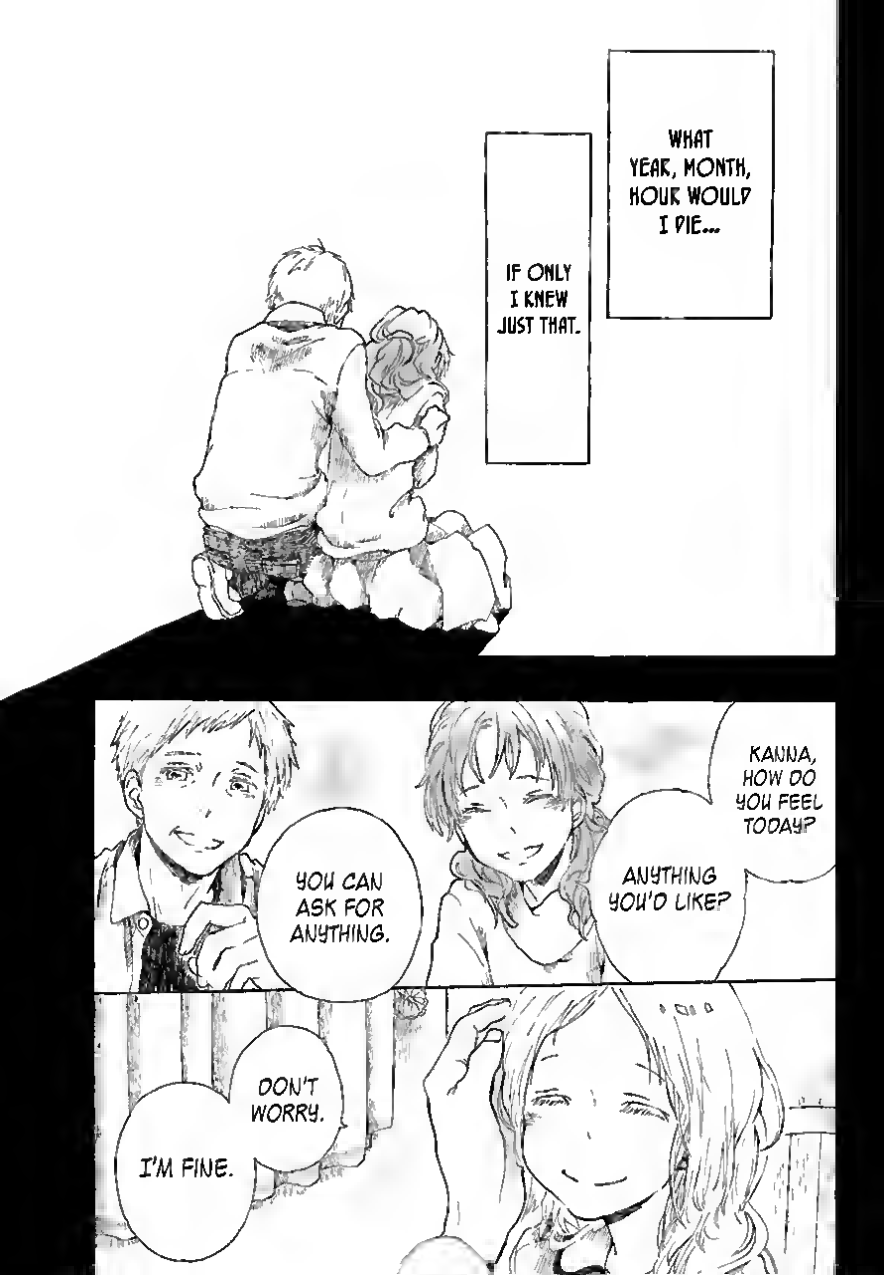



KA-
CHAK...
...I'M HOME.
KANNA?!

GRAB
!
WHERE DID YOU GO?!
I CALLED GRANDMA AND YOU WEREN'T THERE!
I WAS SEARCHING FOR YOU!!
PLEASE STOP THIS! IF YOU'RE BY YOURSELF AND SOMETHING HAPPENS, I...
SORRY, I WAS AT THE AQUARIUM.
THE AQUARIUM?! BY YOURSELF?!

MOM... DAD...
SHE'S BACK SAFELY, ISN'T SHE?
HONEY, CALM DOWN.
Tears up
I'M SORRY.
I'M FINE, SO...
I DETEST AMBIGUITY
...SHE MOST LIKELY HAS HALF A YEAR LEFT.

...SENSEI, IS THIS TRUE?
WHY DOES KANNA... SHE'S ONLY 13!
THAT'S... SENSEI, YOU'RE JOKING!
IT IS POSSIBLE TO INCREASE THE LIFE EXPECTANCY.
FOR NOW, WE CAN ONLY HOPE THE TREATMENT SUCCEEDS.


WHAT YEAR, MONTH, HOUR WOULD I DIE...
IF ONLY I KNEW JUST THAT.
KANNA, HOW DO YOU FEEL TODAY?
ANYTHING YOU'D LIKE?
YOU CAN ASK FOR ANYTHING.
DON'T WORRY.
I'M FINE.

JUST TAKE ME INSTEAD...
THIS... IS TOO PAINFUL...
KANNA'S THE ONE SUFFERING THE MOST.
WE'VE GOT TO STAY STRONG.
It's fine.
It must be fine.
...Yet,

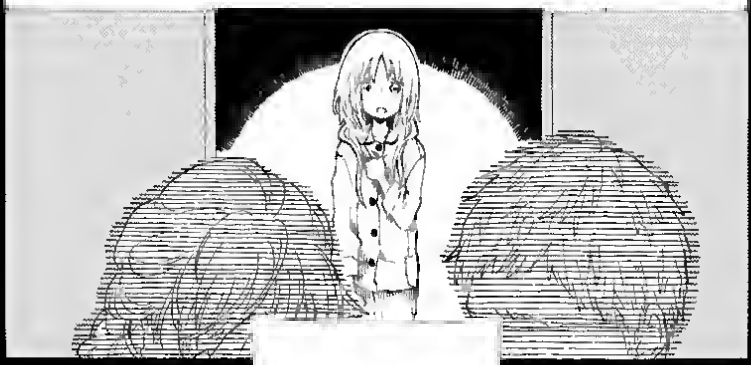
NO!
NO!
NO!
SCARY!
SCARY!
SCARY!
DEATH IS SCARY!
SCARY!
SCARY!
I'M SCARED.

'IT HAD TO BATTLE WITH THOSE FEELINGS 'TIL DEATH.'

'RATHER THAN VAIN EFFORT,
IT'S AMA-ZING.'

If I cried out 'I don't want to die!'
I wonder if mom and dad... would break down and cry in front of me...
What would Rikka's hatchling do...
if it saw its parents cry endlessly?

'Please don't be sad!'



...WOULD IT SAY THAT?

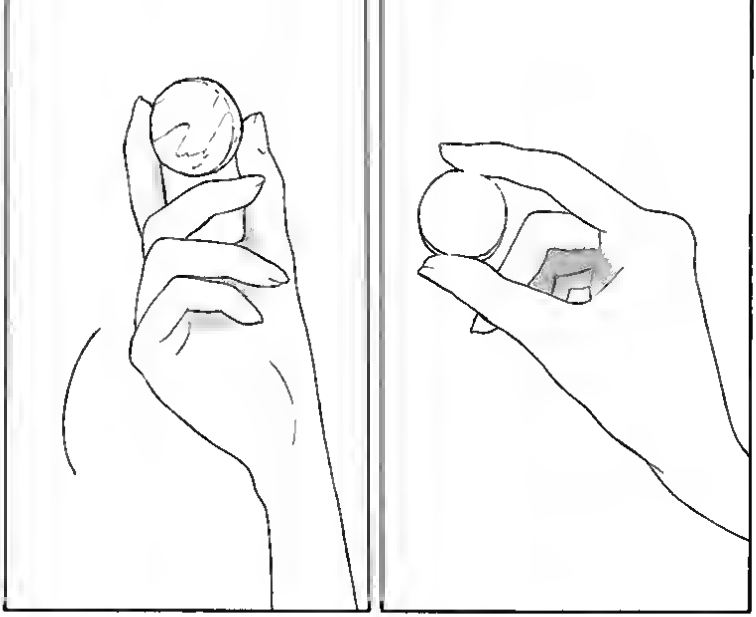
JAPAN IS NOW RIKKA, 5TH MAY.

TODAY'S WEATHER...

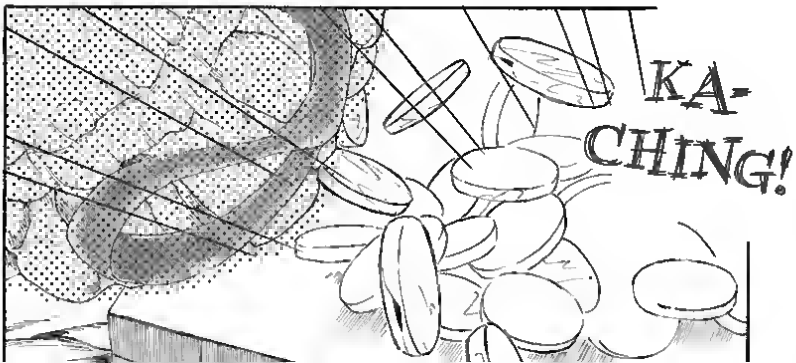
Opens

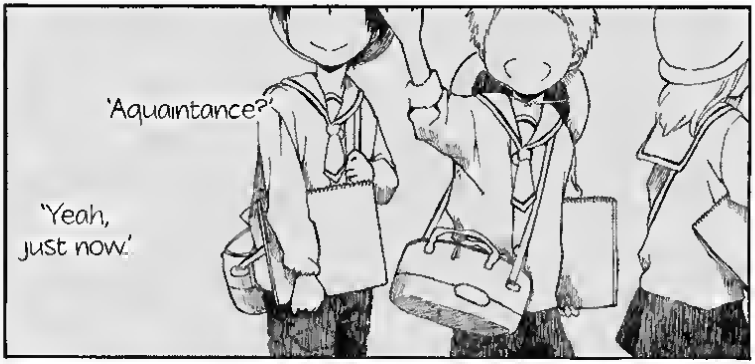
WHITE.
I GOT TAKEN TO THE HOSPITAL
CHANCE OF RAIN IS 0%.
A GOOD DAY TO HEAD OUT...
BUZZ
LET'S PLAY OTHELLO.
Drag
Drag
YEAH.
CAN'T MOVE MY BODY.

HN.
WHY'S IT HERE...
Rustle...
SHIRO...
IS HE ALIVE?
Stamp Ra
Collect them all!
Coral
...
MEDS.
DID HE NOTICE THEM...
PAUSE...
OH, WELL.
...EH.



WHITE...



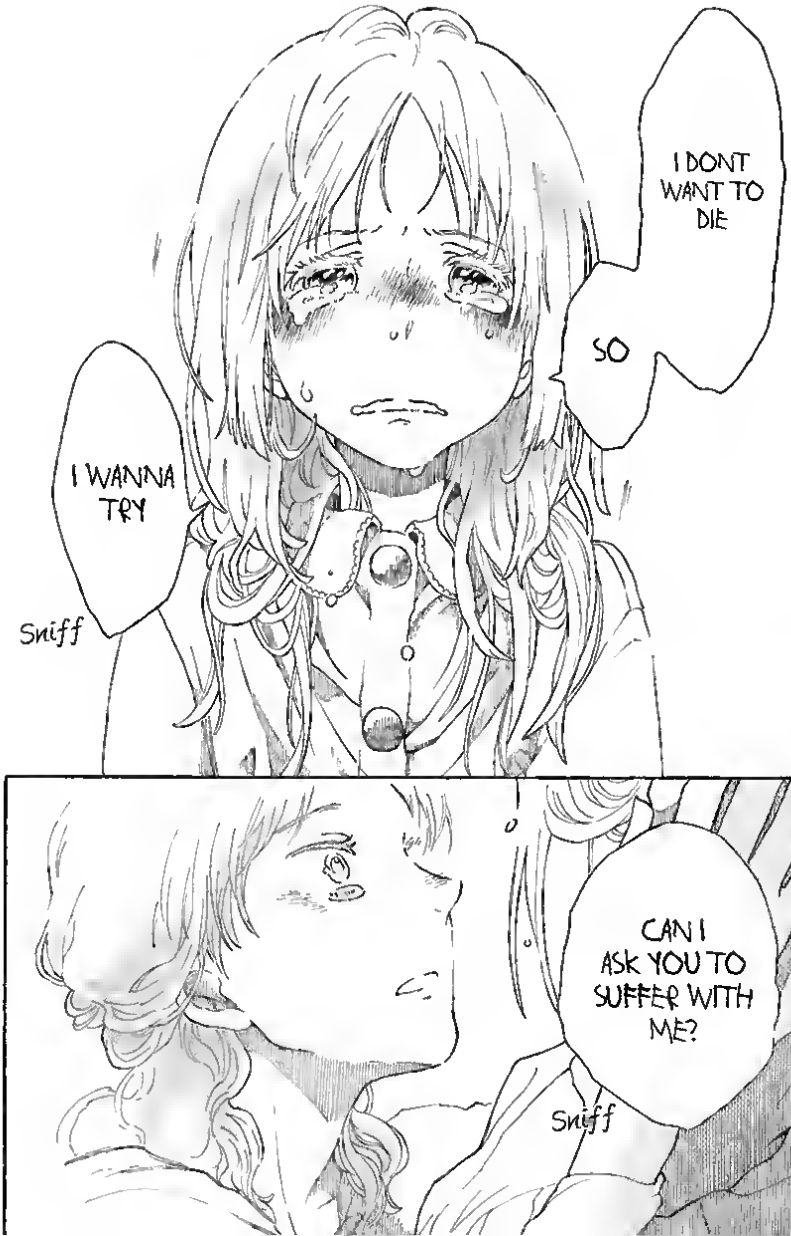


'It's Kanna's win.'

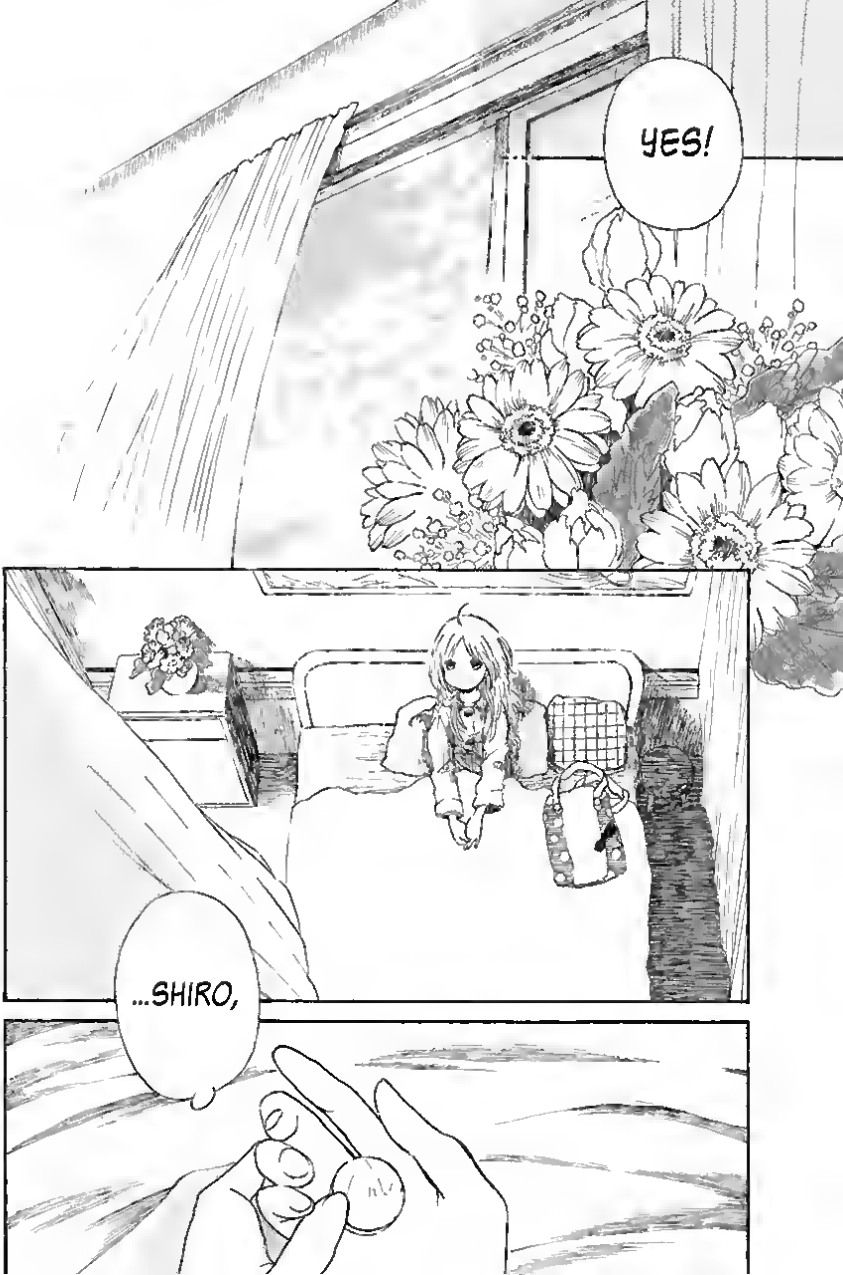
'Othello!'

IT'S WHITE!
IT'S SHIRO'S WIN!

'I WANT TO KNOW THE PRIZE.'
HOW'S THAT FOR A GOAL?
KANNA...?
WHAT'S WRONG?!
ARE YOU HURT?!
MOM.
Collect them all!


I DONT WANT TO DIE
SO
I WANNA TRY
Sniff
CAN I ASK YOU TO SUFFER WITH ME?
Sniff

HOLD
TOGETHER.
LET'S TRY OUR BEST TOGETHER.


YES!
...SHIRO,

I'M ALSO GIVING MY ALL!

'If anyone's fine,

play with me?'

'Since...'

'...losing to yourself
勇猛果敢
IGH SCHOOL TENN
is a very regrettable thing.'
End
Under the same sky, we bravely live on

RAVENS SCANS

RIKKA NO KUBI

By: Amano Sayaka

ONESHOT

Credits:

Translator: Jek

Redrawer: Dvo

Typesetter: Mitsuru-kun

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ALSO,

WE WANT TO PICK UP

HENSOKU-KEI QUADRANGLE

RE:ZERO
OFFICIAL ANTHOLOGY COMIC

Translator
Redrawer

SHOUJO FUJUUBUN

Translator
Redrawer